

[Prof. Saif-Ud-Din Soz]

(*Interruptions*)

the Rajya Sabha on the Prasar Bharati Bill. I would request you to go to the business.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Rawat, if you are not calling the attention, then I will go to the next item in the Agenda.

[*Translation*]

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I and other 12 hon. Members of Parliament are trying to raise the same issue but you are not allotting the time for it. Keeping in view our request kindly allow us to raise the issue.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almorah): Sir, I am not doing anything wrong.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, what do you want?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever Shri Harish Rawat says only will go on record and nothing else.

(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Baroda, Gujarat. Some people resorted to stone throwing from a religious place on a religious procession on the occasion of immersion of Ganesh idols resulting in clashes and death of 12 to 15 persons. Today the situation has reached such a point as our people cannot observe any religious festival. I would like to request you to institute an inquiry into the incident and ask the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to make a statement in this regard. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rawat, if you are not calling the attention, then I will go to the next item.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If Mr. Rawat is interested in the Calling Attention Motion, I call upon him to call the attention of the Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Textiles to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:-

15.45 hrs

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

"Reported delay in taking decision regarding extension of cotton monopoly procurement scheme to Maharashtra thus affecting the cotton growers and the steps taken by the Government in that regard."

Extension of cotton monopoly procurement scheme to Maharashtra.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Please sit down. This has taken too much.

I have called the attention, Sir. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to sit down please.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the Minister.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): While approving extension of the Maharashtra Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme for a period of one year in 1989, the Central Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee in July, 1989 consisting of representatives from the Ministries of Textiles, Commerce, Agriculture, Finance and Reserve Bank of India to examine in depth the merits and demerits of further continuation of the Scheme beyond 30th June, 1990. The Committee invited the views of, and held discussions with all organisations directly or indirectly affected by the operation of the aforesaid Scheme including the Government Maharashtra, Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers' Federation Ltd., All India Cooperative Cotton Federation, Cotton Corporation of India, Indian Cotton Mills Federation, etc. The Committee has since submitted its report to Government, which is under very active consideration of the Government and a decision in this regard is expected to be taken very soon. Since the decision is expected to be taken well before the start of arrivals of the new crop, the question of interests of growers being affected does not arise.

2. I understand the concern of the Hon'ble Members on the subject. I want to assure them that Government is fully seized of the matter and is taking an early decision on the matter of extension of the Scheme.

Sir, you are very particular about time. Whatever Mr. Rawat and others have said that I wanted to give in writing to the hon. Speaker. This matter is to be decided tomor-

row and while taking decision thereon due account will be taken of the feelings expressed by hon. Members here. I do not want to take much time of the house. This is a compulsion and it is better to extend it. We will act according to the suggestions we have received.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have heard the statement given by the hon. Minister and assurance given by him to this house. I am very thankful to him that he had shown a very sympathetic attitude to this matter and I believe that very soon he will take a decision which will meet the aspiration of the people of Maharashtra. We are very concerned about it because of the ensuing cotton procurement season. If the Government will not take timely decision in this regard, the agencies which are engaged in this work will have to face a lot of difficulties.

Unfortunately the past performance of the Ministry in this regard now held by Shri Sharad Yadavji has not been very satisfactory and people have apprehensions about it. We have raised this matter many times. The Maharashtra Government and the Chairman of Maharashtra Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme had also requested him to extend the scheme for atleast another ten years. You may also agree to the reasons advanced in favour of this demand. They want that if this scheme for procurement is allowed to continue for another ten years they can be able to prepare a long term plan. On that case they can be able to work not only for the welfare of this body but for these farmers also who are associated with this body. I request you to extend the validity of this procurement scheme for atleast another ten years. This has also been requested by the Management of the Maharashtra Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I realise your attentiveness in regard to time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time at the disposal of the House is yours. I am not to have my say it is. You people to have your say.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: We also share your concern about the contains of time as your concern is the concern of entire of House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, very much.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I would also like to submit that C.C.I. has not been set up to earn profit by exports. That is incurring heavy losses. I don't want to mention the amount of losses C.C.I.'s main function is to procure the cotton in those areas where there is not organised agency to save the farmers from Middleman but it has been converted into a cotton exporting agency. You give this agency permission to export bales of cotton as per their demand whereas step motherly treatment is meted to the cooperatives in Maharashtra Gujarat in this score. They ask permission for exporting the cotton bales and you grant it. I request you that the cooperative institutions of Gujarat or the co-operative institutions of Maharashtra are people's institutions which are well aware of the hopes and aspiration of the peoples. They are doing very good job. Our friends Shri Uttambhai Rathod and Shri Purohitji are very concerned about it. They have submitted that you are allowing the C.C.I. to export more bales of cotton than what is permissible under this scheme, whereas Gujarat Cooperative and Maharashtra Cotton Monopoly Scheme are not being allowed to export cotton according to their capacity. They have to incur losses. I request you to allow the Maharashtra Cotton Monopoly scheme and Gujarat Co-operatives may be allowed to export the cotton bales according to their procurement and to the quantity they give to C.C.I. You should not differentiate between these two bodies. One is Government Agency and the other is Co-operative body. It is obligatory for the Government to promote the co-operative movement.

Thirdly, I want to submit that in Maharashtra when the first staple comes into market, the traders from all the places like Andhra Pradesh, Delhi and other places come to purchase it, and because of it these

agencies which purchase cotton under this scheme have to incur loss. I would like to request you that if you can not stop it than please ask the other states to extend this scheme to other cotton growing areas also and in this way it will help these bodies to protect their interests because they are doing good work.

Further, I would like to request that the policies should not be made under any pressure from cotton mill federation and according to their interests. I don't mean to say that they should not be asked in this regard but it has been observe that every year these mills group together and pressurise the C.C.I. and Government and put influence to reserve the quota for them and manage to reduce the export of cotton. Due to these practices there is the glut in the cotton market and these people get the chance to dictate the arbitrary prices for the cotton. I would like to say that there must be a comprehensive scheme and all the bodies other than Cotton Mill Federation should also have a say in fixing the prices of cotton. The views of farmers should also be taken into consideration and this scheme must cover the Wider interest. I also want to suggest that...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, there is nothing to suggest in it. You are to seek clarification only. You are extending its scope.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I will ask for clarification. I would like to know from the hon. Minister steps to be taken to strengthen the procurement system of C.C.I. and to open more procurement centres?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That has nothing to do with the Maharashtra Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I know this kind of thing; you need not enlighten me. This is not the way.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have widened the scope. You do not understand.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I understand; I need not require education.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have to educate you, if you are not educated.

[*Translation*]

PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to have clarification on three-four points. You are also from Maharashtra and you also know the difficulties of cotton growers. Like us, you also observe that the cotton growers grow cotton on thousands of acres of land but every year the monopoly procurement scheme is not started in time and the growers have to suffer heavy losses. We want that the Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme should be extended for another ten years and every year due to indecision of Central Government in the name of giving extension to this scheme the cotton growers are confused about their produce, hence the scheme should be extended for another ten years.

Secondly, I would like to say that the prices of cotton are fixed not in proportion to the cost of production and very few people get remunerative prices. On the basis of cost of production the minimum prices should be fixed at Rs. 1200 or 1250 per quintal. The farmers have to suffer losses and they are in debts. Hence, I would like to say that the farmers should get the remunerative prices on the basis of their cost of production. particularly the areas of Marathvada and Vidarbha are very poor and the people of these areas should get the benefit of remunerative prices. This whole scheme was for the cotton growers...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the subject of Central Government, Maharashtra Government is concerned to it.

PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: I want to say that Central Government should fix higher prices for them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Central

Government does not pay for it. They them self fix the prices.

PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: The main thing I want to say that the Central Government should help in this matter. I have raised this point because of it only. I want to raise another point that this scheme is incurring losses. Maharashtra Market Federation does not get permit to export well in time, due to which it always suffers losses. There is a fixed quota for it and it should be given in time. Central Government must consider this matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This scheme is of Maharashtra Government.

PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: Central Government will also have to consider this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have told you it is not like this. This is Maharashtra Government's Scheme.

PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: Thank you.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Janata Dal Government is the well wisher of farmers in 15 years of Congress rule grave injustice was done to the farmers and now the Janata Government is doing the same to the Monopoly procurement system under pressure.

16.02 hrs.

RE-BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[*English*]

DR. THAMBI DURAI (Karur): Sir, according to today's Agenda, at 4 o'clock we are supposed to take up discussion on Mandal Commission. Since morning we are demanding for its discussion. Now, it is already 4 o'clock, so we, should not continue